

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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March 04, 2003

FROM: James A. Felten, Public Health Programs Administrator
Department of Public Health

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACTS FOR PROVISION OF HIV PREVENTION AND
EDUCATION OUTREACH PROJECT SERVICES**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Approve amendments to County (Department of Public Health) contracts as indicated below in the amount of \$48,435 for the provision of HIV Prevention and Education Outreach Project Services for the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Previous Contract Amount</u>	<u>Amount of Change</u>	<u>New Contract Amount</u>	<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Term of Contract</u>
Inland AIDS Project	\$259,000	+ 24,217.50	\$ 283,217.50	02-561 A -1	July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2004
Foothill AIDS Project	\$133,800	+ 24,217.50	\$158,017.50	02-562 A -1	July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2004

- 2) Terminate Contract 02-878 with Bienestar Human Services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Department of Public Health (Department) currently contracts with community-based organizations to provide primary medical care, case management, dental care, emergency financial assistance, food services, health education/risk reduction, home health care, legal services, counseling, outreach, transportation, and other support services to County residents living with HIV/AIDS. The California Department of Health Services (DHS) provides funding to the Department through an annual Master Agreement for community-based education and outreach services intended to reduce the transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the causative agent of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The objective of prevention and education outreach projects is two-fold: 1) Primary prevention activities provide uninfected individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent the acquisition of HIV; and 2) Secondary prevention activities provide infected individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent further transmission of HIV to others. Secondary prevention activities also provide infected individuals with the resources necessary to acquire early diagnosis and treatment to slow the progression of HIV to AIDS.

On April 16, 2002, the Board approved amendments to the AIDS Master Grant Agreement resulting in \$1,418,883 (\$472,961 each FY) for AIDS Education and Prevention for the period July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2004.

On April 23, 2002, the Board approved and authorized release of a Request For Proposals (RFP) for community-based providers to provide HIV Prevention and Education Outreach Project Services for an amount not to exceed \$454,500 (\$227,250 during each fiscal year 2002-03 and 2003-04). The Department retained the remaining \$491,422 for administration and direct client services (\$36,100 for administrative services and \$455,322 for direct client services).

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On June 25, 2002, the Board approved contract awards for Inland AIDS Project (IAP), Foothill AIDS Project (FAP) and Desert AIDS Project (DAP) for a total award amount of \$454,500. These community-based organizations provide services to target populations such as men who have sex with men; injection drug users and their sex partners; at risk youth; women; people of color; and HIV-positive persons.

On January 29, 2002, the Board ratified the submission of a grant application to DHS in the amount of \$50,000 for the period December 1, 2001 through June 30, 2003 to establish HIV/AIDS services for the high risk Latino population. At that time, the Department contacted several community-based organizations to ascertain which agencies were willing and able to serve the target population. Bienestar Human Services, Inc. was the only agency that had the capacity to serve the Latino population. The other community-based organizations were willing to serve the target population but believed that they needed to broaden the cultural diversity of their staff in order to be more effective in meeting the needs of the target population.

On July 30, 2002, the Board accepted a grant award of \$75,000 from the DHS for the period January 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004 to establish a program to provide HIV prevention, education and outreach services to Latino communities in San Bernardino County. The Department was unable to expend the \$25,000 for the first funding period (January 1, 2002 through June 30, 2002) since Bienestar had not made a commitment to provide services.

On August 27, 2002, the Board approved a contract with Bienestar in the amount of \$50,000 to provide outreach and risk assessment services to high-risk individuals in the Latino community for the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004. When the County was preparing the contract, Bienestar had outreach staff. By the time the contract was awarded, the staff allocated to San Bernardino County had resigned. Due to the difficulty of finding people who are bilingual and effective at working with the target population in a street setting, Bienestar was not able to meet contract requirements. As of December 2002, Bienestar has not been in compliance with the following contract provision. Per Section V, Paragraph G of the Contract, "Contractor is obligated to provide services at a relatively consistent level throughout the term of the contract." The agency had not hired an outreach worker to deliver outreach services and had not submitted required monthly reports and invoices. On December 9, 2002, Bienestar was informed that the Department would request that the Board of Supervisors exercise the option to terminate the contract due to lack of contract performance.

Approval of this item will cancel the County's contract with Bienestar Human Services, Inc. to provide HIV Prevention, Education and Outreach services in the Latino community. Bienestar did not have the required staff to perform these services, so this item is requesting that funding be redistributed to other contractors. Bienestar is also currently contracted to provide HIV/AIDS care and support services under Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act. The agency has complied with its contract requirements for Title I services, and the Department is satisfied with the Title I services provided by Bienestar.

At this time, Foothill AIDS Project and Inland AIDS Project are able to serve the Latino population as they both have bilingual staff, expanded facilities, and finances to serve this population. The Department has determined that based on contract performance and staffing levels, FAP and IAP are now able to provide community-based education and outreach services to the target population that Bienestar was contracted to serve. Bienestar expended \$1,565 of its contract. The remaining funds of \$48,435 will be reallocated to FAP and IAP. Although the contract period remains consistent with initial award, payments for services to the target population will only be made for such services rendered after Board approval of these contract amendments.

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REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by the Office of County Counsel (Charles Larkin, Deputy County Counsel) on February 13, 2003; HSS Contract Compliance (Bruce Fordon, Administrative Supervisor) on February 10, 2003; and County Administrative Office (Beatriz Valdez, Administrative Analyst) on February 12, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This item imposes no local County cost. Expenditures are fully reimbursed by DHS. Appropriations and revenues in the amount of \$25,000 have been included in the Department of Public Health's approved FY 2002-03 budget. Appropriations and revenues in the amount of \$25,000 will be included in the Department's FY 2003-04 budget request. Funding is expected to continue at the same level in subsequent years.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the department's decision to amend these contracts so that the target population will continue to receive uninterrupted, quality services. DHS will provide full reimbursement to the County.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: James A. Felten, Public Health Programs Administrator (909) 387-9146

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